

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Prior to this amendment claims 1-13, 17, and 19-20 were pending with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. This amendment incorporates the recitations of dependent claim 3 into claim 1, canceling claim 3. This amendment also adds new independent claim 21 and dependent claims 22-24. These claims correspond to independent claim 1.

The Official Action objected to the title of the invention. Responsively, the title of the invention has been amended. Should the present title of the invention not be deemed acceptable, it is requested that an acceptable title be suggested.

The Official Action objected to the disclosure, the specification on page 39. Responsively, the specification has been amended as kindly suggested.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-13, 17, 19, and 20 under §102 as being anticipated by DJAYAPRAWIRA et al. (IEEE Trans. Mag., vol. 37 of July, 2001). This reference is a paper read by DJAYAPRAWIRA et al., the inventors of the present invention, at a meeting of the IEEE Institute. The time the paper was introduced to the public is July 2001, which is later

than the priority date of the present application, i.e., December 27, 2000. In order to perfect applicants' claim of priority, find attached herewith a verified English-language translation of the Japanese priority application filed on December 27, 2000, which translation shows that applicant had position of the claimed invention at that time. Accordingly, this removes DJAYAPRAWIRA et al. as prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action had rejected claims 1-2 as anticipated by TAMARI et al. 5,851,582. As the subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1, this anticipation rejection is moot.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-13, 17, 19, and 20 under §102 as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under §103 as obvious over MALHOTRA et al. 6,303,217, in view of evidentiary art: Ikeda et al. (IEEE Trans. Mag., 33(5), 1997, 3079-3081), Akimoto et al. (U.S. Patent App. No. 2002/0001736 A1), Bertero et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,500,567), Howard (U.S. Patent No. 4,652,499), Maeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0150793 A1) and Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,853,847).

Note that Maeda et al. is not prior art to the present application in view of the verified translation having been made of record.

The anticipation rejection, as well as the obviousness rejection, are not viable as neither MALHOTRA et al., nor any of the supporting evidentiary art, teach the recited conditions of a coercive force H_c of at least 2000(Oe) and an anisotropic magnetic field H_k^{grain} of at least 10,000(Oe).

Figure 2 of IKEDA et al. discloses each data showing a coercive force H_c as 2000(Oe) and an anisotropic magnetic field H_k^{grain} as 10,000(Oe). However, these conditions are not satisfied at the same time.

MALHORTA et al. does not even make this disclosure. The Official argues that it would be obvious to meet both these conditions in order to avoid right demagnetization. The Official Action points to Ikeda et al., sections 3 and 4 and Figure 2. However, as noted above, this reference does not teach meeting both these conditions at the same time. Accordingly, applicants do not believe that this reference teaches to make the modification as proposed by the Official Action. As noted above, Maeda et al. is not prior art to the present invention and accordingly the disclosure relied upon, is not prior art.

Indeed, that the Official Action must rely on so many references, indicates to applicants that the invention is indeed both novel and non-obvious over the art.

In view of the applied art falling short of teaching or suggesting all the recited features of the invention,

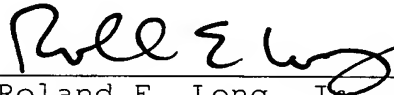
reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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